

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically synthesized double stranded ~~short interfering~~ nucleic acid (siNA) molecule comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand that directs cleavage of a huntingtin (HD) RNA via RNA interference, wherein:
 - a. each strand of said ~~RNA~~ double stranded nucleic acid molecule is about ~~1918~~ to about ~~2327~~ nucleotides in length;
 - b. ~~one strand the antisense strand~~ of said ~~RNA~~ double stranded nucleic acid molecule comprises nucleotide sequence having sufficient complementarity to said HD RNA for the siNA molecule to direct cleavage of the HD RNA via RNA interference that is complementary to a human huntingtin (HD) nucleotide sequence and the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand; and
 - c. said double stranded nucleic acid molecule comprises at least two different ~~at least one strand of said RNA molecule comprises one or more chemically modified nucleotides.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~claim~~ 6 1, wherein said sense ~~region~~ strand is connected to the antisense ~~region~~ strand via a linker molecule.
11. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein said linker molecule is a polynucleotide linker.
12. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein said linker molecule is a non-nucleotide linker.
13. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
14. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the ~~fragment comprising~~ said sense ~~region~~ strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the ~~fragment comprising~~ said sense ~~region~~ strand.
17. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides ~~of said~~ present in the antisense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides
19. (Currently Amended) The siNA double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides ~~of said~~ present in the antisense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in ~~said the antisense region strand~~ comprise are 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~18~~ 1, wherein ~~said the antisense region strand~~ comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of ~~said the antisense region strand~~.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, wherein the 5'-end of the ~~fragment comprising said antisense region strand~~ optionally includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the ~~siNA~~ double stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in ~~an~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.